



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

22 MARCH 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Contra Costa – Police Find Makeshift Bomb Lab in Pleasant Hill Apartment

(U) On Friday, Pleasant Hill police arrested a 27-year-old man after discovering bomb-making materials and explosives. Detectives along with the Clayton Police Department were investigating a series of vandalisms in both jurisdictions. During that investigation, Pleasant Hill police uncovered evidence that showed the suspect was in possession of bomb-making materials and explosive devices. A search of the suspect's residence confirmed the evidence, and the apartment complex was evacuated while bomb squad secured the scene. The suspect was arrested without incident and booked into County Jail.

SOURCE: 19 March 2022, [NBC Bay Area](#)

(U) San Jose – Former Employee Charged with Defrauding Apple of \$10M

(U) Federal prosecutors charged a former Apple employee with defrauding the tech giant out of more than \$10 million by taking kickbacks, stealing equipment, and laundering money. Dharendra Prasad worked for 10-years as a buyer in Apple's Global Service Supply Chain department. The unsealed indictment alleges that he exploited his position to defraud the company in several schemes, including stealing parts, and causing the company to pay for items and services it never received. Two California vendors plead guilty to co-conspiring with Prasad. The court ordered the forfeiture of five real estate properties and financial accounts worth about \$5 million from Prasad.

SOURCE: 19 March 2022, [KTLA](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – Gang Members Arrested in the Rio Grande Valley

(U) Edinburg – On 18 March, McAllen Border Patrol Station (MCS) agents apprehended a group of 13 migrants and identified a Salvadoran national as an 18th Street gang member. The following morning, agents apprehended a group of four adult males including a Salvadoran national and Mara-Salvatrucha 13 gang member with multiple removals dating back to 2014. That evening, agents apprehended 15 individuals in a failed smuggling event, including another Salvadorian 18th Street gang member.

SOURCE: 21 March 2022, [US CBP](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Florida – Miami Beach Declares Curfew After Spate of Gun Violence

(U) Miami – The city of Miami Beach declared a curfew from Thursday until Monday in response to gun violence and raucous spring break crowds that, according to officials, have stretched public services beyond their capacity to respond. Five people were hospitalized in two separate shootings over the weekend, as larger-than-usual crowds swarmed the island just across the bridge from the city of Miami. Police deployed 371 officers over the weekend and confiscated 37 guns over the past three days.

SOURCE: 21 March 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) Texas – Man Pleads Guilty to Conspiring to Steal More Than \$2.1M in Sensitive Military Equipment

(U) Corpus Christi – Nathan Nichols, a South Texas man pleaded guilty Monday to conspiring to steal

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more than \$2.176 million in sensitive military equipment from US Army Garrison Ft. Hood in June 2021. Law enforcement executed a search warrant at Nichols' residence in July 2021 and discovered sensitive military equipment including laser range finders, thermal scopes, night vision scopes, night vision goggles, and laser aiming devices belonging to the US Army. Nichols admitted to being in contact with one of the persons responsible for the theft of the military equipment and requested pictures of the property before agreeing to buy it for resale. Once he obtained the items, Nichols subsequently listed them for sale on eBay. Nichols also pleaded guilty to running an illegal gambling operation.

SOURCE: 21 March 2022, [US DOJ](#)

(U) Washington – Microsoft Investigating Claim of Breach by Extortion Gang

(U) Redmond – Microsoft is investigating claims that an extortion-focused hacking group that previously compromised massive companies such as Ubisoft and Nvidia has gained access to internal Microsoft systems. On Sunday, the hacking group LAPSUS\$ posted a screenshot of what appeared to be an internal Microsoft developer account to their Telegram channel. The group has so far not made any public demands against Microsoft.

SOURCE: 21 March 2022, [Bleeping Computer](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Burkina Faso – Suspected Militants Kill 13 Soldiers in Eastern Burkina Faso

(U) Ouagadougou – At least 13 soldiers were killed, and eight others wounded in Burkina Faso's eastern Gourma province in an ambush by suspected Islamic extremists, the army announced Monday.

According to officials, several attackers were killed in the incident and the military secured the area. It was part of the Army's operations to regain control of several areas held by Islamic extremists.

SOURCE: 21 March 2022, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Germany – Prosecutors Announce November Train Attacker had Extremist Motive

(U) Berlin – German prosecutors said Monday they now believe that the suspect in a November knife attack on a train that left four people wounded had an Islamic extremist motive. Authorities initially said that the man showed signs of mental illness. Investigations announced they have produced "weighty indications" that the suspect's actions were based on support for the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham's (ISIS) ideology, though there was no evidence so far that he was involved with the group. Federal prosecutors, who handle terrorism cases in Germany, have now taken over the investigation. Police have said that the suspect, a Syrian citizen, came to Germany in 2014 and was granted asylum in 2016.

SOURCE: 21 March 2022, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Sweden – Two Killed in Violent Attack at Swedish School

(U) Malmö – Two teachers in their 50's have died after a violent attack at a secondary school in southern Sweden. An 18-year-old student was arrested and was armed with a knife and an axe. The suspect had no criminal record or history of suspicious behavior, police said, but investigations were continuing.

Officials reported they did not have any indications so far that the attack was motivated by racism or by religious extremism. It is the third knife attack at a school in the Skåne region in the last year, though police have not established any link between this attack and the earlier non-fatal incident.

SOURCE: 22 March 2022, [BBC](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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